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853952 (09) 6422288 July 23, 2002

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE GRANTED PATENT

6422288

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July 23, 2002

Venetian blind with variable tilting

REISSUE: July 21, 2003 - Reissue Application filed Ex. Gp.: 3634; Re. S.N. 10/624,938 (O.G. November 4, 2003)

APPL-NO: 853952 (09)

FILED-DATE: May 10, 2001

GRANTED-DATE: July 23, 2002

ASSIGNEE-PRE-ISSUE: May 1, 2001 - ASSIGNMENT OF ASSIGNORS INTEREST (SEE DOCUMENT FOR DETAILS)., HUNTER DOUGLAS INDUSTRIES BV PIEKSTRAAT 2EL ROTTERDAM, (1)3071, Reel and Frame Number: 011811/0669

ASSIGNEE-AT-ISSUE: Hunter Douglas Industries B.V., El Rotterdam, Netherlands (NL), Foreign company or corporation (03)

CORE TERMS: tilt, cord, slat, auxiliary, loop, blind, rear, ladder, collar, bead ...

ENGLISH-ABST:

A venetian blind including vertically-extending slat-supporting ladders is described. Each ladder comprises (i) first and second vertical members connected by cross-rungs, (ii) slats, each slat being supported on a cross rung of each ladder, (iii) an adjusting mechanism for pivoting the slats about their longitudinal axes by moving the vertical members in opposite directions, (iv) a vertically-extending auxiliary tilt cord that is adjacent to the first vertical member, and (v) an engagement mechanism on the auxiliary tilt cord and the first vertical member for moving the first vertical member at an intermediate location along its length upwardly with upward movement of the auxiliary tilt cord to adjust the angular pivot of a

section of the cross-rungs connected to the first vertical member above or below the intermediate location. The engagement mechanism including (a) a guiding loop on the first vertical member, (b) a bead fixed on the auxiliary tilt cord and vertically spaced away from the guiding loop and (c) an engaging collar slidably positioned on the auxiliary tilt cord between the guiding loop and the bead, the auxiliary tilt cord extending through the guiding loop. The bead is adapted to engage the engaging collar and move the engaging collar toward the guiding loop to engage the guiding loop when the auxiliary tilt cord is moved upwardly. The blind including a winding drum for winding the auxiliary tilt cord and moving the cord upwardly after the adjusting mechanism has moved the first and second vertical members in opposite directions.

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